

**Archaeological Assessment (Stages 1, 2 & 3)  
Dolmage Design/Build Inc. Subdivision**

**Part of Lot 24, Concession 6 SRT  
Geographic Township of North Dorchester  
Middlesex County, Ontario  
Now in the Municipality of Central Elgin, County of Elgin**

Submitted to

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Archaeological Licence Number 2001-002

Corporate Project Number 2001-017PT

CIF # 2001-002-140 & 2002-005-005

June 2002

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## Acknowledgments

The completion of this report was facilitated by the assistance of the following individuals:

- **Glenn Dolmage**, President, Dolmage Design Build Inc..
- **Robert Von Bitter**, Archaeological Data Coordinator, Archaeology Unit, Heritage Branch, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Toronto.

## **Project Summary**

An archaeological assessment (Stages 1, 2 & 3) was conducted for an approximate 48 acre residential development property located on part of Lot 24, Concession 6 South of the River Thames, Geographic Township of North Dorchester, Middlesex County, Ontario (now in the Municipality of Central Elgin, County of Elgin). This assessment was undertaken in order to fulfill a standard archaeological condition of development approval.

The background research indicated the presence of no registered archaeological site within 2.0 kilometers. The potential of the property for precontact Aboriginal sites was judged to be moderate to high, while the potential for historic Euro-Canadian archaeological resources was judged to be moderate.

The majority of the subject property consists of a ploughed agricultural field, with lesser areas disturbed by a former school and domestic residence and associated out buildings as well as a small wetland. The ploughed land was assessed using the standard pedestrian survey method at five metre intervals. A small area of lawn was assessed using the test pit method. The wetland and areas of previous disturbance were judged to have low archaeological potential and were not subject to assessment.

The Stage 2 field assessment resulted in the identification of one Euro-Canadian site and four pre-contact Aboriginal sites. The Euro-Canadian site yielded late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, and appears to relate to the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century residence located near the southwest corner of the study area. Given the recent age of this site, no further archaeological assessment is recommended.

Two of the four pre-contact Aboriginal sites were judged to have sufficient significance and information potential to warrant additional Stage 3 assessment (AfHg-95 & AfHg-96). Despite intensive Stage 3 testing, the artifact recovery frequencies from each location were very low, and no additional assessment is recommended.

The Ministry of Culture (MCul) is asked to review the results and recommendations presented in this report and issue a letter of concurrence. A final draft plan of subdivision will be submitted later in the year along with a request for clearance.

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**Dolmage Design/Build Inc. Subdivision**  
**Part of Lot 24, Concession 6 SRT**  
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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

An archaeological assessment (Stages 1, 2 & 3) was conducted for an approximate 48 acre residential development property located on part of Lot 24, Concession 6 South of the River Thames, Geographic Township of North Dorchester, Middlesex County, Ontario (now in the Municipality of Central Elgin, County of Elgin). This assessment was undertaken in order to fulfill a standard archaeological condition of development approval.

The Stage 1-3 assessment was conducted between April 1st and June 8<sup>th</sup> 2002, under archaeological consulting licence 2002-005, issued to Jim Wilson by the Minister of Culture. The Stage 2 field assessment resulted in the identification of Euro-Canadian site and four pre-contact Aboriginal sites. The Euro-Canadian site yielded late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, and appears to relate to the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century residence located near the southwest corner of the study area. Given the recent age of this site, no further archaeological assessment is recommended. Two of the four pre-contact Aboriginal sites were judged to have sufficient significance and information potential to warrant additional Stage 3 assessment (AfHg-95 & AfHg-96). Despite intensive Stage 3 testing, the artifact recovery frequencies from each location were very low, and no additional assessment is recommended.

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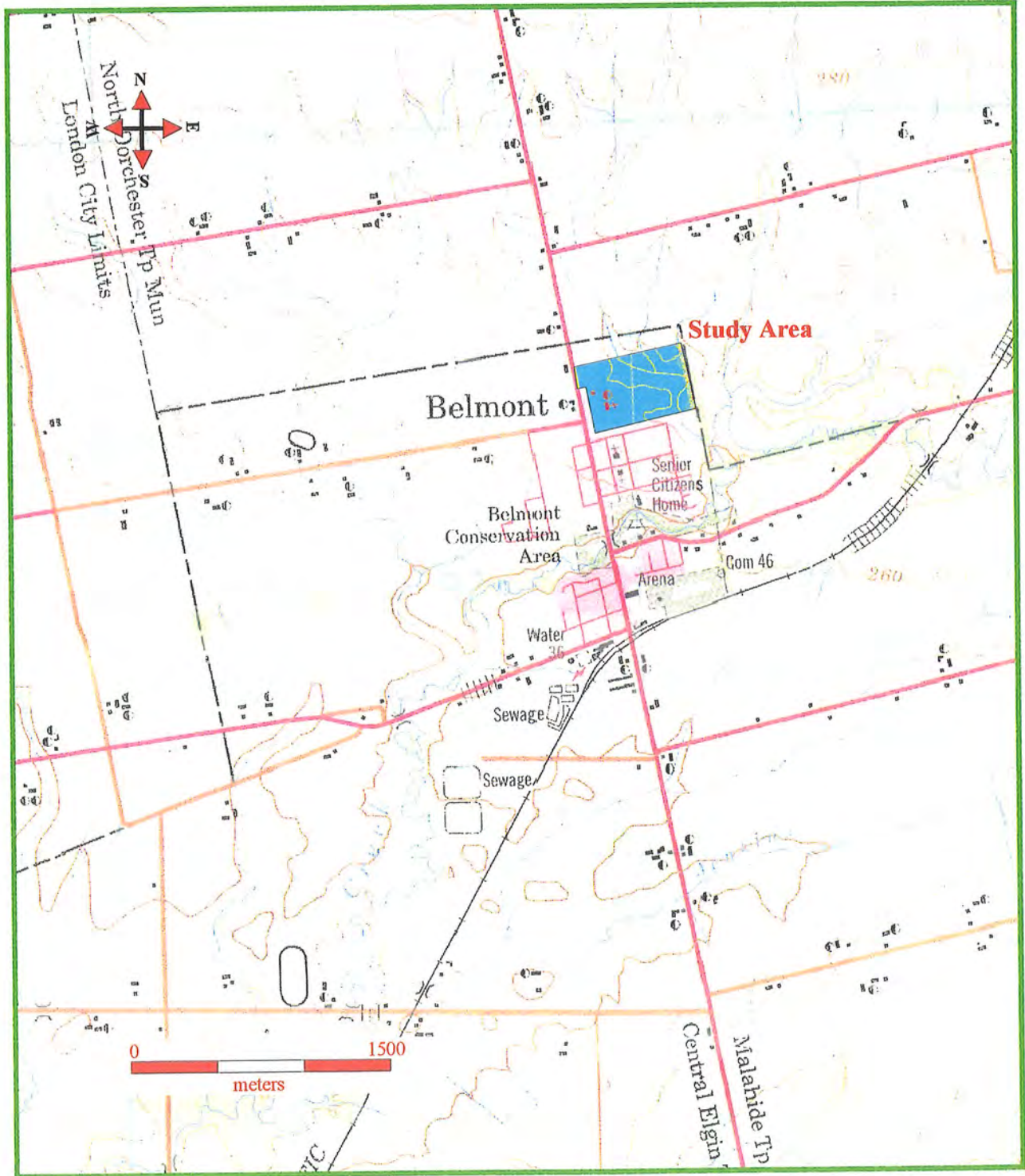
## **2.0 STUDY METHODS**

### **2.1 Stage 1 Background Research**

In compliance with the provincial regulations set out in the "*Archaeological Assessment Technical Guidelines*" (MCzCR 1993), the Stage 1 Archaeological Overview/Background Study included;

- a visual evaluation of the property;
- a review of the land use history, including pertinent historic maps; and
- an examination of the National Site Registration Database to determine the presence of known archaeological sites in an around the project area.

**Figure 1: Location of the Study Area**



Background research was conducted at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Office (MTCR) in Toronto, the University of Western Ontario Map Library, and the corporate library of Archaeologix Inc.

## **2.2 Stage 2 Field Assessment**

The majority of the subject property consists of a ploughed agricultural field, with lesser areas disturbed by a former school and domestic residence and associated out buildings as well as a small wetland. The ploughed land was assessed using the standard pedestrian survey method at five metre intervals. The property had been ploughed in the fall and the survey conditions were excellent. A small area of yard immediately west of the existing residence was subject to test pit assessment at a five-meter interval. Each test pit was excavated to subsoil, and all soil was screened through six-millimeter hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of artifacts. Each test pit was approximately 30 centimeters in diameter, and was back filled.

Figure 3 depicts the methods employed during the assessment. Three areas were excluded from assessment. They include the disturbed area of the house and associated facilities, the graded area surrounding the former school, and the wetland in the south east corner of the study area.

Permission to enter the property and remove artifacts was granted the landowner, Mr. Glenn Dolmage. All recovered artifacts will be temporally housed at the corporate head office of Archaeologix Inc., until such time formal arrangements are made for a transfer to the MCul office at 55 Centre Street, London, Ontario.

## **2.3 Stage 3 Assessment of Site Significance and Information Potential**

The Stage 3 assessment included the mapping of the surface artifact distribution on site AfHg-95 and AfHg-96, as well as the hand excavation of a series of one-metre square test units strategically placed to sample the nature and density of the deposits at each site. A permanent datum was established and a five-meter grid was laid out from this point. The five-meter units were referred to by the intersection coordinates of their southwest corner. Each five-metre square was divided into 25 one-meter units, with sub-square number one located in the southwest corner of the five-meter unit, number five in the southeast corner, number six located immediately north of number one, and so on. Each one-meter square test unit was excavated to subsoil, with all soil screened through six millimeter hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of small artifacts. All excavated artifacts were retained for laboratory analysis and description.

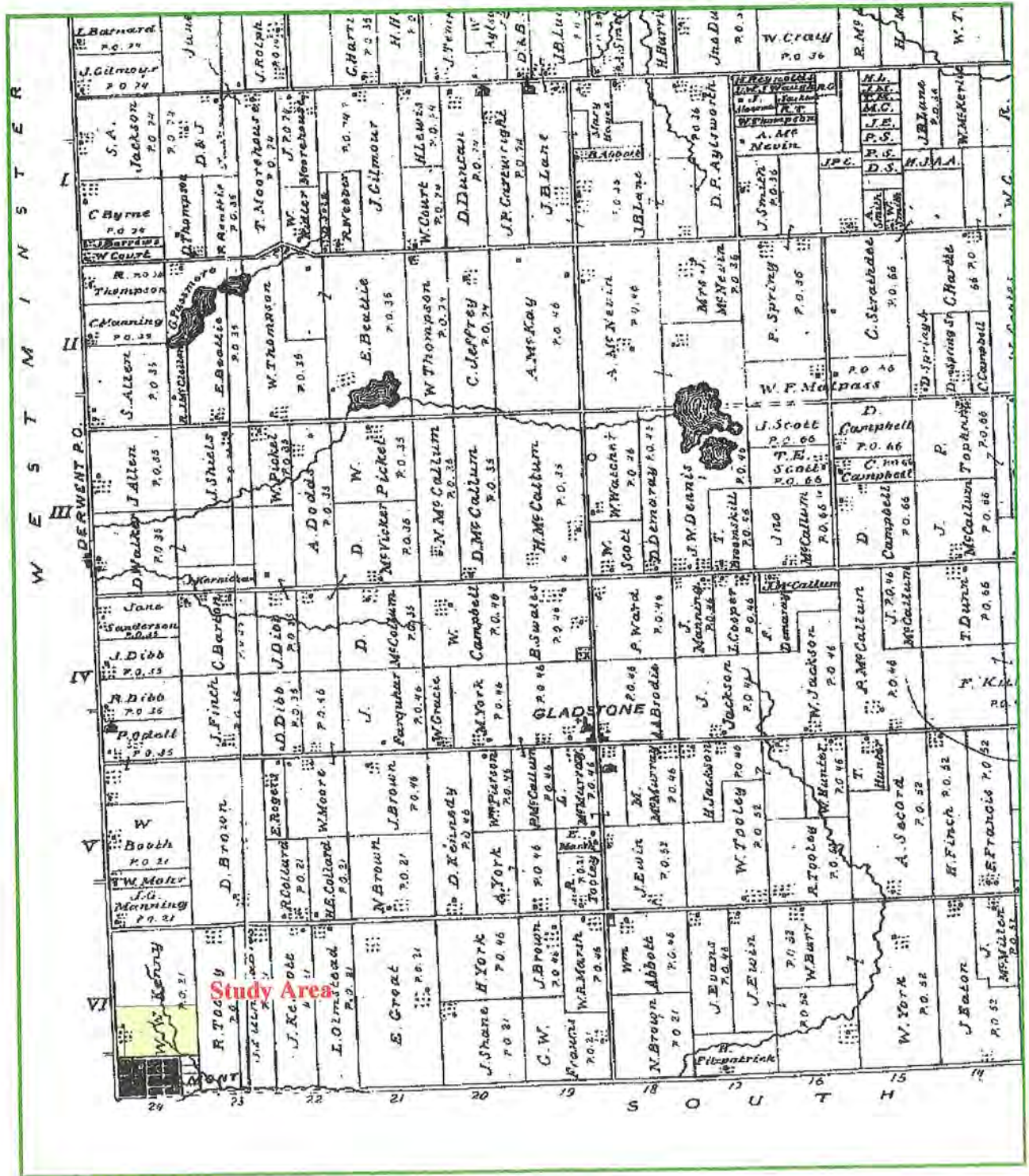
## **3.0 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Background Research**

#### **3.1.1 The Natural Environment**

The subject property is situated within the physiographic region known as "Mount Elgin Ridges" (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 144-146).

Figure 2: A Portion of the 1878 Map of North Dorchester Township





*Between the Thames Valley and the Norfolk sand plain lies a succession of ridges and vales which are called the Mount Elgin Ridges....There are numerous examples of basins with no visible drainage outlets, ranging from small kettles such as Mud Lake, Walker Pond, and Whittaker Lake, to the wide Swampy hollows of the old spillways, as for example near Dereham Centre. South of the Westminster and St. Thomas Moraines the country drains to Lake Erie by means of the tributaries of Kettle, Catfish and Otter Creeks....The two major landform components of this region provide obviously contrasting soils. The ridges are well drained while imperfect and even poor drainage characterize the hollows. The ridges are formed from clay till similar to that of the Wyoming Moraine and the Stratford plain.*

Chapman and Putnam 1984:145

There is a small, unnamed tributary of Kettle Creek that transects the eastern third of the study area.

### **3.1.2 Pre-Contact Aboriginal Archaeological Potential and Known Resources**

Previous archaeological assessments and research surveys have demonstrated that the Mount Elgin Ridges were intensively utilized by pre-contact Aboriginal peoples. However there has been very little archaeological assessment in the Belmont area and as a consequence there are no registered archaeological sites within two kilometers of the study area. Table 1 provides a general outline of the culture history for the Brantford area drawn from Ellis and Ferris (1990). Given the rolling terrain, well-drained soils, and the proximity of potable water described above, the potential of the property for precontact Aboriginal sites was judged to be moderate to high.

### **3.1.3 Potential for Historic Archaeological Sites**

The map of North Dorchester Township in the 1878 H.R. Page & Co. *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Middlesex* indicates one structure within the limits of the study area. The owner of the property is listed as W.W. Kenny, whose homestead was located near the southwest corner of the study area (Figure 2). Historical maps are not always accurate, and the absence of a structure on other portions of the study area does not necessarily mean none were present. Given the location of the study area in close proximity to historic Highway 74, as well as the village of Belmont, the potential for historic Euro-Canadian archaeological resources was judged to be moderate.

**Table 1: Cultural Chronology for the Brant County Area.**

PERIOD	CHARACTERISTICS	TIME	COMMENTS
Early Paleo-Indian	Fluted Projectiles	9000 - 8400 B.C.	spruce parkland/caribou hunters
Late Paleo-Indian	Hi-Lo Projectiles	8400 - 8000B.C.	smaller but more numerous sites
Early Archaic	Kirk and Bifurcate Base Points	8000 - 6000 B.C.	slow population growth
Middle Archaic	Brewerton-like points	6000 - 2500 B.C.	environment similar to present
Late Archaic	Lamoka (narrow points)	2000 - 1800 B.C.	increasing site size
	Broadpoints	1800 - 1500 B.C.	large chipped lithic tools
	Small Points	1500 - 1100B.C.	introduction of bow hunting
Terminal Archaic	Hind Points	1100 - 950 B.C.	emergence of true cemeteries
Early Woodland	Meadowood Points	950 - 400 B.C.	introduction of pottery
Middle Woodland	Dentate/Pseudo-Scallop Pottery	400 B.C. - A.D.500	increased sedentism
	Princess Point	A.D. 550 - 900	introduction of corn
Late Woodland	Early Ontario Iroquoian	A.D. 900 - 1300	emergence of agricultural villages
	Middle Ontario Iroquoian	A.D. 1300 - 1400	long longhouses (100m +)
	Late Ontario Iroquoian	A.D. 1400 - 1650	tribal warfare and displacement
Contact Aboriginal	Various Algonkian Groups	A.D. 1700 - 1875	early written records and treaties
Historic	Euro-Canadian	A.D. 1796 - present	European settlement

### 3.2 Stage 2 Field Assessment Results

The Stage 2 field assessment resulted in the identification of one historic Euro-Canadian site and four pre-contact Aboriginal site, each of which is described separately below.

#### 3.2.1 Location 1 (AfHg-95)

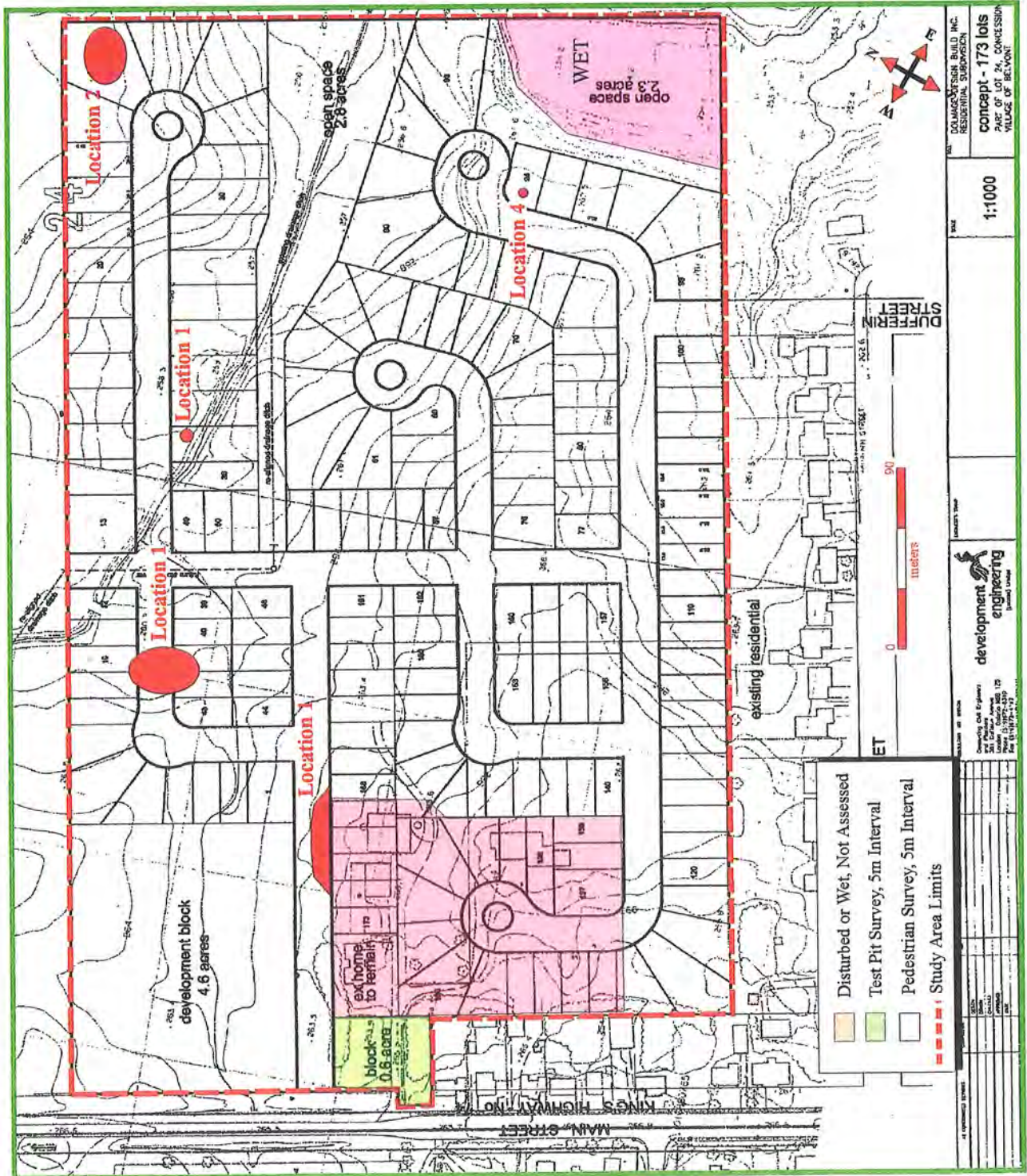
Location 1 consists of a scatter of fifteen pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus scattered over a 30 by 20 meter area, approximately 50 meters west of the channelized tributary of Kettle Creek. Despite the intensification of the survey interval to one meter within a 40 meter radius of these finds, no additional material was located.

Because Location 1 consists of a moderately dense and spatially discrete concentration of pre-contact Aboriginal cultural material, it was recommended that the site be subject to a Stage 3 investigation to further assess its significance and information potential.

#### 3.2.2 Location 2 (AfHg-96)

Location 2 consists of a scatter of 12 pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus, one fragmentary projectile point and one small biface tip scattered over a 30 by 30 meter area in the extreme northeast corner of the study area. Despite the intensification of the survey interval to one meter within a 40 meter radius of these finds, no additional material was located. The projectile point was thin and well made from high quality Onondaga chert (Figure 7:1). Both the base and the tip are missing, although one side notch is present, and it may represent an Early Woodland Meadowood point (950-450 B.C.).

Figure 1: Location of the Sites Subject to Stage 3 Assessment



Because Location 2 consists of a moderately dense and spatially discrete concentration of pre-contact Aboriginal cultural material, it was recommended that the site be subject to a Stage 3 investigation to further assess its significance and information potential.

### **3.2.3 Location 3**

Location 3 consists of a linear scatter of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic material located along the north side of the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century home (Figure 3). Historic artifacts were found over an area measuring approximately 45 metres east west by 15 meters north/south (Figure 3). A representative sample of 20 artifacts was collected. The collection is dominated by refined white earthenware, porcelain, and white graniteware. Bottle and window glass were also recovered. A full catalogue of the curated artifacts is provided in Appendix A. Numerous pieces of clearly 20<sup>th</sup> century debris were noted but not collected. It seems likely that the Location 3 deposits relate directly to the occupation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century home located immediately to the south. This home is not to be impacted by the development.

Given the relatively late date of the material recovered from the site, Location 3 has relatively low significance and information potential. As a result no additional assessment is recommended for Location 3.

### **3.2.4 Location 4**

Location 4 consists of a find spot of a single piece of Onondaga chert chipping detritus located on a promontory overlooking the wetland to the east. Despite the intensification of the survey interval to one meter within a 40 meter radius of this find, no additional material was located. Given the limited significance of an isolated, non-diagnostic pre-contact Aboriginal artifact, no additional assessment is recommended for Location 4.

### **3.2.5 Location 5**

Location 5 consists of a find spot of a single piece of Onondaga chert chipping detritus located immediately east of the channelized tributary of Kettle Creek. Despite the intensification of the survey interval to one meter within a 40 meter radius of these find, no additional material was located. Given the limited significance of an isolated, non-diagnostic pre-contact Aboriginal artifact, no additional assessment is recommended for Location 5.

## **3.3 Stage 3 Archaeological Site Documentation**

The Stage 2 assessment resulted in the determination that two of the pre-contact Aboriginal sites required additional Stage 3 assessment to further evaluate their significance and information potential (AfHg-95 & AfHg-96). The Stage 3 assessment of each of these locations is described in greater detail below. The catalogue for the Stage 3 assessment is located in Appendix A.

**Figure 4: General View of the Stage 2 Survey Conditions**



**Figure 5: General View of the Stage 2 Survey Conditions**



**Figure 6: Disturbed Area West of Former School**



**Figure 7: Stage 2 & 3 Artifacts**



**1: Location 2 Projectile**



**2: Location 2 Projectile**

Figure 8: Location 1 (AfHg-95) Stage 3 Results

Note: Permanent datum set 55 meters  
to the east of 305E-500N along the  
edge of the field

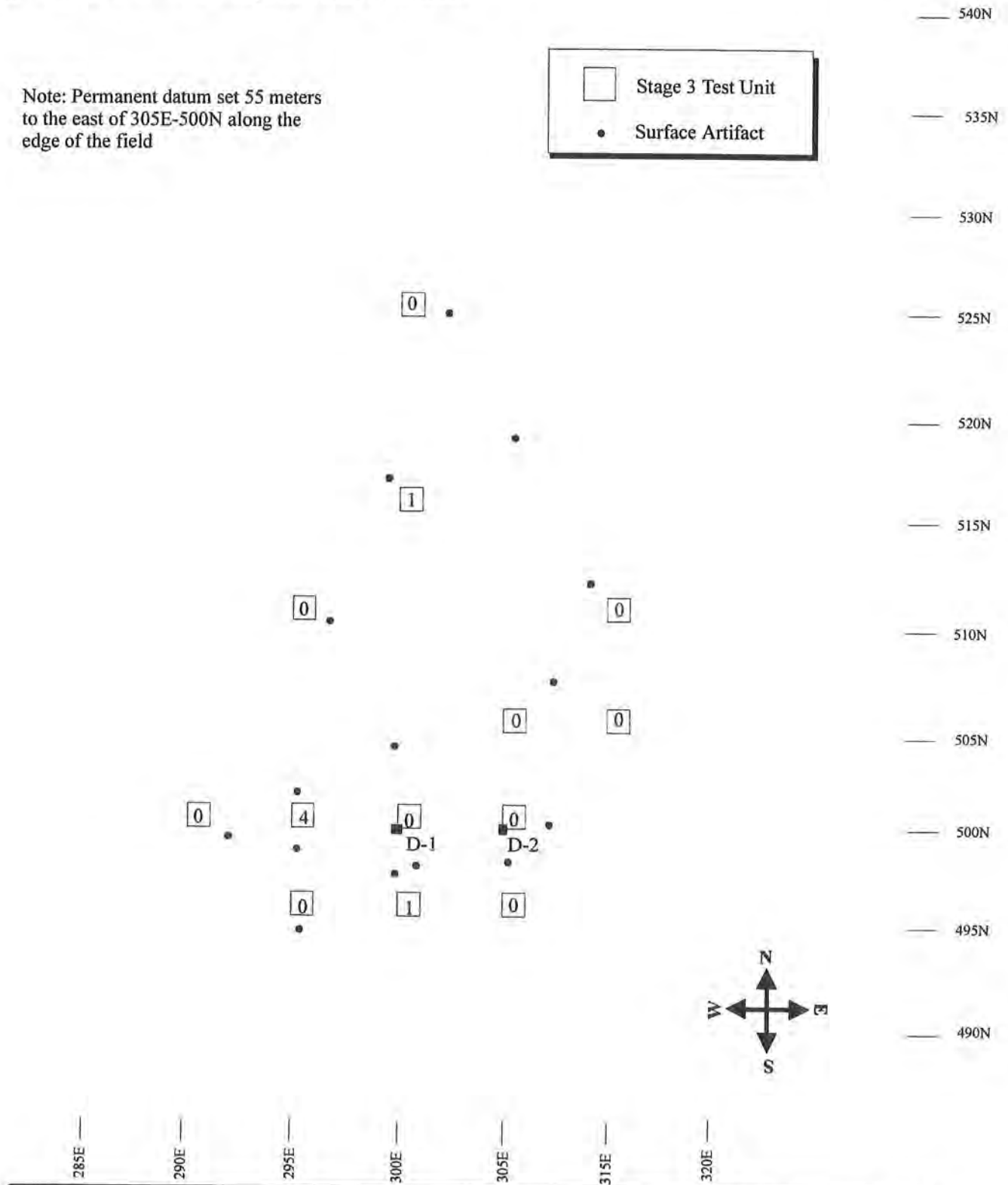
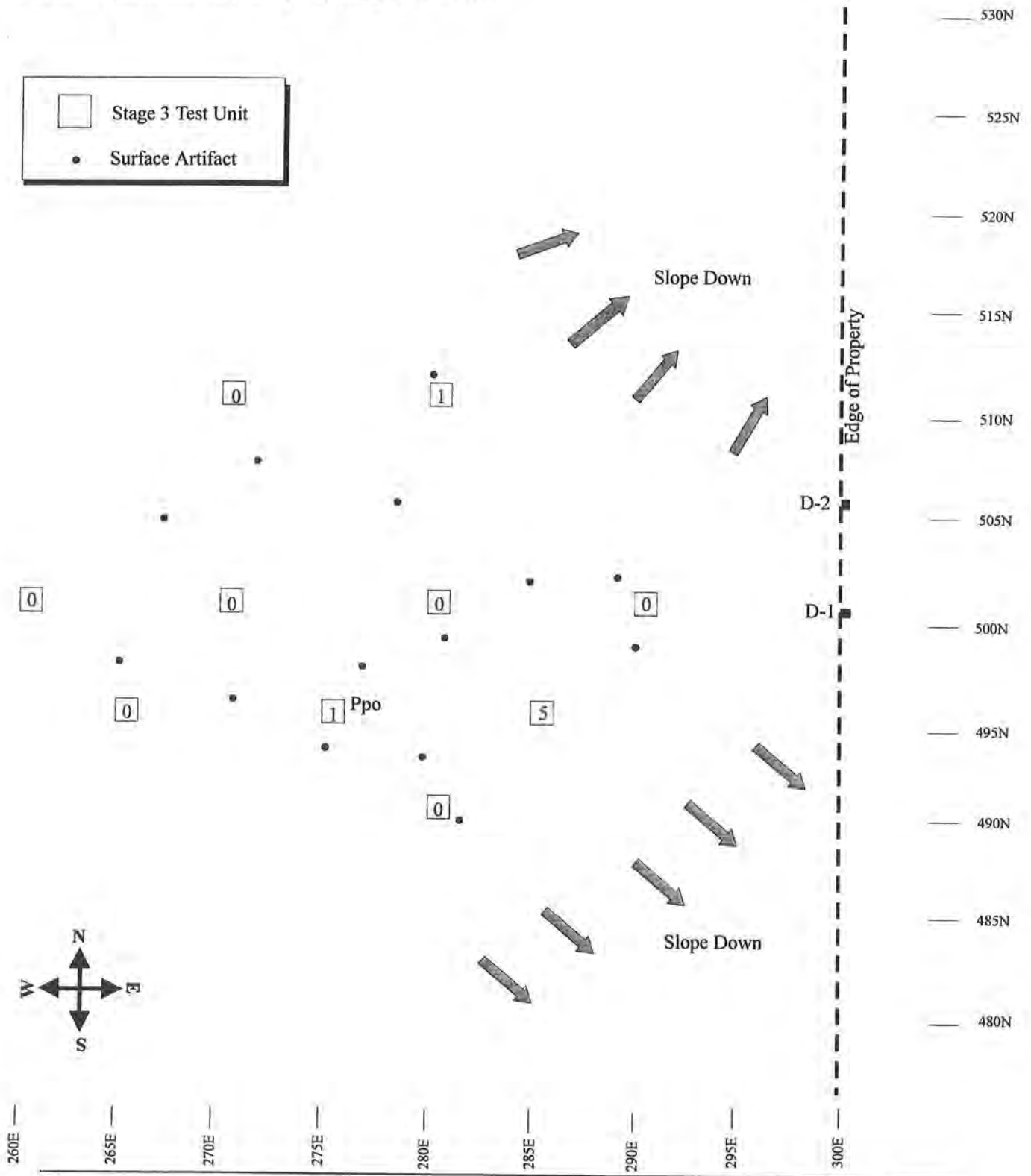


Figure 9: Location 2 (AfHg-96) Stage 3 Results





### **3.3.1 Location 1 (AfHg-95)**

The Stage 2 survey indicated that Location 1 consisted of a scatter of 15 chert flakes within a 30 by 20 meter area. The Stage 3 assessment involved the controlled mapping of the surface artifact distribution as well as the hand excavation of a series of one-meter test units.

In total, 13 one meter squares were excavated, strategically located to test the nature and integrity of the deposits at the site (Figure 8). The excavation resulted in the recovery of only six additional pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus. The extremely low rate of artifact recovery at Location 1 indicates that the site has low archaeological significance and information potential. As a consequence, no additional assessment is recommended for this location.

### **3.3.2 Location 2 (AfHg-96)**

The Stage 2 survey indicated that Location 2 consisted of a scatter of 12 chert flakes, a partial projectile point and a small biface tip within a 30 by 30 meter area. The Stage 3 assessment involved the controlled mapping of the surface artifact distribution as well as the hand excavation of a series of one-meter test units.

In total, 10 one meter squares were excavated, strategically located to test the nature and integrity of the deposits at the site. The excavation resulted in the recovery of only seven additional artifacts, including six pieces of Onondaga chert chipping detritus and one small stemmed projectile point (Figure 7:2). The projectile point may represent a type of Late Early Archaic point, although it does not fit easily into an established type. It This point is also not easily reconciled with the probable Early Woodland point recovered from the site surface during the Stage 2 assessment.

Despite the recovery of the projectile point from the surface and from the one test unit, the extremely low overall rate of artifact recovery at Location 2 indicates that the site has low archaeological significance and information potential. As a consequence, no additional assessment is recommended for this location.

## **4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Stage 1-3 assessment was conducted between April 1st and June 8<sup>th</sup> 2002, under archaeological consulting licence 2002-005, issued to Jim Wilson by the Minister of Culture. The Stage 2 field assessment resulted in the identification of Euro-Canadian site and four pre-contact Aboriginal sites. The Euro-Canadian site yielded late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, and appears to relate to the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century residence located near the southwest corner of the study area. Given the recent age of this site, no further archaeological assessment is recommended. Two of the four pre-contact Aboriginal sites were judged to have sufficient significance and information potential to warrant additional Stage 3 assessment (AfHg-95 & AfHg-96). Despite intensive Stage 3 testing, the artifact recovery frequencies from each location were very low, and no additional assessment is recommended.

The Ministry of Culture (MCul) is asked to review the results and recommendations presented in this report and issue a letter of concurrence. A final draft plan of subdivision will be submitted later in the year along with a request for clearance.

Should deeply buried archaeological material be found on the property during construction activities, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation should be notified immediately (519) 675-7742. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction, the proponent should immediately contact both the MTCR and the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, (416) 326-8404.

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## References Cited

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1984 The Physiography of Southern Ontario (Third Edition). **Ontario Geological Survey Special Volume 2**. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto.

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## Appendix A: Artifact Catalogues

### Stage 2

#### Location 1 AfHg-95

Cat.	Context	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
1	surface	chipping detritus		15

#### Location 2 AfHg-96

Cat.	Context	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
1	surface	Projectile		1 broken
2	surface	biface		1 tip
3	surface	chipping detritus		12

#### Location 3

Cat.	Context	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
1	surface	whiteware, sponged		1
2	surface	ironstone		1
3	surface	pipe stem		1 orange glaze
4	surface	misc. metal		1 copper
5	surface	semi-porcelain		2 1 handle
6	surface	glass, bottle		2 aqua
7	surface	glass		1 purple, moulded
8	surface	glass, bottle		2 olive
9	surface	glass, window		3 clear
10	surface	whiteware, edged		1
11	surface	glass		1 clear, press
12	surface	ironstone		4

#### Location 4

Cat.	Context	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
1	surface	chipping detritus		1

#### Location 5

Cat.	Context	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
1	surface	chipping detritus		2

### Stage 3

#### Location 1 AfHg-95

Cat.	Context	Depth	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
2	305E 515N:1	0-23 cm	chipping detritus	1	
3	300E 495N:1	0-23 cm	chipping detritus	1	
4	295E 500N:1	0-24 cm	chipping detritus	4	

#### Location 2 AfHg-96

Cat.	Context	Depth	Artifact	Freq.	Comments
4	280E 500N:1	0-17 cm	chipping detritus	1	
5	285E 495N:1	0-20 cm	chipping detritus	5	
6	275E 495N:1	0-20cm	projectile point	1	